

INFO... J3-1 J5-1 SACSA-3 SAMAA-1
S/DEF-7 ASD/ISA-5 DIA-15 CSA-1 CJCS-1
CSAF-5 CNO-2 CMC-3 FILE-1(46)

Encl 70
CO-2
Order Warrant

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STATE/INR DIA ARMY NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID LSIA SDO

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

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CITE YDCS-314/01341-67

DIST 26 JANUARY 1967

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: 19 FEBRUARY - 8 DECEMBER 1966

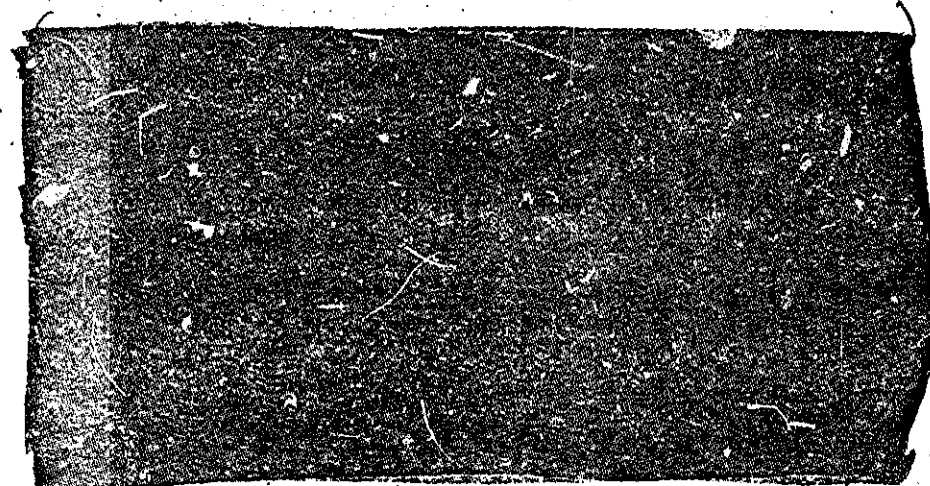
SUBJECT: ESCAPED PRISONER'S DESCRIPTION OF THREE-COMPOUND
PATHET LAO PRISON NEAR MUONG PHINE IN SAVANNAKHET
PROVINCE.

Worksheet of 1-2

DIANA 7C
NOT DECLASS.

ACQ:

SOURCE:



1. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] WAS IMPRISONED IN A CAMP WITH THREE
SEPARATE COMPOUNDS NORTHWEST OF MUONG PHINE ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS
NORTH OF ROUTE 9. THE PROPAGANDA CHIEF AT THE CAMP MENTIONED
[REDACTED]

407

Encl 70 (S-47,601/00-4H)

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DATE 28 JUN 1970

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XD3146

THAT TWO AMERICANS HAD BEEN CAPTURED AT BAN THAKHONG BUT GAVE NO DETAILS. [REDACTED] KNEW OF ONLY LAO PRISONERS AND A THAI WHO WAS AT THE CAMP ONLY THREE DAYS. PRISONERS WHEN FIRST CAPTURED WERE TIED TO POSTS IN THE CAMP HUTS BUT THEY WERE LATER ALLOWED TO GO ABOUT OUTSIDE THEIR COMPOUND, IF THEY SEEMED COOPERATIVE, TO GET FOOD TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR PRISON DIET OF TWO BOWLS OF SALTED RICE A DAY. SEVEN MEN WHO HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF LAO GUERRILLA OR ROAD-WATCH UNITS ESCAPED FROM ONE OF THE PRISON COMPOUNDS DURING AN AIR STRIKE ON A NEARBY TARGET. ONE WAS RECAPTURED. [REDACTED] AND THE OTHER FOUR MEN IN HIS COMPOUND ESCAPED WHEN THEY WERE TAKEN TO A NEARBY VILLAGE TO HELP HARVEST RICE.

2. THE CAMP WHERE [REDACTED] WAS IMPRISONED WAS NORTHWEST OF MUONG PHINE ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE HOUEI (STREAM) TAYUNG, ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS (KM) NORTH OF BAN NAP (XD 078273) ON ROUTE 9. A MOTORABLE ROAD RAN NORTH FROM ROUTE 9 PAST THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE CAMP AND CONTINUED NORTH TO THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S OFFICE AND A HEADQUARTERS. [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW HOW FAR FROM THE CAMP THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S OFFICE AND HEADQUARTERS WERE, BUT WHEN TRUCKS PASSED THE CAMP THEY DID NOT STOP WITHIN THE RANGE OF HIS HEARING. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] REPORTED

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(classification) (dissem controls)

A MILITARY AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX NEAR BAN HOUET PHA LO (XD 079378), 11 KM DIRECTLY NORTH OF BAN NAPO.)

3. IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER A THAI PILOT CAPTURED AT BAN THAKHONG (XD 3146) WAS BROUGHT TO THE CAMP, KEPT THERE FOR THREE DAYS, THEN TAKEN TO SAM NEUA (VH 0158). THE PROPAGANDA INSTRUCTOR AT THE CAMP SAID THAT AT ANOTHER TIME TWO AMERICANS AND ONE THAI HAD BEEN CAPTURED AT THAKHONG; HE GAVE NO DETAILS.

4. THE CAMP WAS MADE UP OF THREE COMPOUNDS, EACH ABOUT 100 METERS IN DIAMETER AND ENCLOSED IN A DOUBLE ROW OF POSTS WITH THORN BUSHES PILED BETWEEN THEM. EACH POST AND THORN BUSH FENCE HAD ONE GATE WIDE ENOUGH FOR A MAN TO PASS THROUGH. THE GATES OF THE COMPOUNDS FACED THE STREAM AND WERE ABOUT 15 METERS AWAY FROM IT. THEY WERE LOCKED AT NIGHT. IN THE CENTER OF EACH COMPOUND WAS A HUT ABOUT 20 METERS LONG AND THREE METERS WIDE AND WALLED ON THREE SIDES. THE SOUTH SIDE WAS OPEN WITH POSTS ALONG IT ABOUT TWO METERS APART. THE PRISONERS WERE TIED TO THE POSTS AT THE NIGHT. BETWEEN THE EASTERNMOST COMPOUND AND THE CENTER COMPOUND, A SPACE ABOUT 100 METERS WIDE, THERE WAS A SMALL HUT FOR THE GUARD FORCE LARGE ENOUGH FOR SIX MEN.

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5. WHEN [REDACTED] ARRIVED AT THE CAMP HIS UNIFORM WAS TAKEN AND HE WAS ISSUED A PATHET LAC UNIFORM. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE EASTERNMOST COMPOUND WHICH ALREADY HELD FOUR LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR) SOLDIERS. FOR THE FIRST 30 DAYS HE WAS TIED TO THE POST BY HIS ARMS AND NECK BOTH DAY AND NIGHT AND RELEASED ONLY FOR MEALS AND TO BATHE IN THE STREAM. FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS HE WAS TIED TO THE POST ONLY AT NIGHT. AFTER THAT HE WAS UNTIED MOST OF THE TIME AND ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY THE GUARDS ON HUNTING AND FISHING TRIPS FOR FOOD TO SUPPLEMENT THE CAMP DIET AND TO SEARCH FOR BAMBOO SHOOTS NEAR THE CAMP. IT SEEMED TO [REDACTED] THAT THE PRISONERS WERE TIED ONLY WHEN THERE WERE FEW GUARDS. WHEN ALL THE GUARDS WERE THERE THEY WERE NOT TIED. AS THE GUARDS BECAME CONFIDENT THAT A PRISONER WAS NOT GOING TO ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE, THEY LESSEMED THE RESTRICTIONS ON HIM. THEY DID NOT PERMIT THE PRISONERS TO TALK TO EACH OTHER BUT THE PRISONERS MANAGED TO TALK SECRETLY AMONG THEMSELVES OCCASIONALLY.

6. PRISON DIET WAS A BOWL OF RICE WITH SALT IN THE EARLY MORNING AND ANOTHER AT NIGHT. AFTER PRISONERS HAD GAINED THE GUARDS' CONFIDENCE, THEY WERE ALLOWED TO GO OUT WITH THE GUARDS TO HUNT AS [REDACTED] WAS. AFTER ABOUT THREE MONTHS A PRISONER [REDACTED]

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(classification)

(dissem. controls)

WAS ALLOWED TO COOK HIS OWN FOOD AND BOIL HIS OWN WATER. THE MEN WERE TAKEN EACH DAY TO BATHE IN THE STREAM.

7. AFTER [REDACTED] HAD BEEN IN THE CAMP FOR THREE MONTHS THE GUARDS AND THE PROPAGANDA INSTRUCTOR, THONDY, GAVE HIM A BOOK OF PROPAGANDA TO READ ALONG WITH THE FOUR OTHER MEN IN THE COMPOUND HE WAS GIVEN TWO HOURS OF PROPAGANDA INSTRUCTION A DAY. AFTER THAT [REDACTED] WAS ALLOWED TO GO HUNTING AND FOOD GATHERING WITHOUT GUARDS. HE WAS, HOWEVER, RESTRICTED TO A PARTICULAR AREA.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
(classification) (dissem controls)

8. THERE WERE SEVEN PRISONERS IN THE CENTER COMPOUND. ALL HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF LAO GUERRILLA OR ROAD-WATCH UNITS. BECAUSE THE PATHET LAO HELD THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR AIR STRIKES IN THE AREA, THEIR TREATMENT WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE OTHER PRISONERS. THEY WERE GIVEN LESS FOOD AND WERE TOLD THAT IF THEY TRIED TO ESCAPE AND WERE RECAPTURED THEY WOULD BE KILLED. THEY WERE TIED TO THE POSTS NO MORE THAN THE OTHER PRISONERS, HOWEVER. IN EARLY NOVEMBER SIX AIR PLANES ATTACKED NEARBY. SEVERAL BOMBS LANDED CLOSE TO THE PRISON AND THE GUARDS RAN FOR COVER. THE SEVEN MEN IN THE CENTER COMPOUND BROKE OUT AND ESCAPED. ONE OF THEM, A MAN WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN THE LEG BEFORE HIS IMPRISONMENT AND COULD NOT MOVE AS FAST AS THE OTHERS, WAS RECAPTURED AND BROUGHT BACK THREE DAYS LATER. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE OTHERS HAD PROBABLY GOTTEN AWAY - THEY WERE NEVER BROUGHT BACK AND HE HEARD NO SHOTS FIRED. THE GUARDS DID NOT KILL THE ONE THEY DID RECAPTURE DESPITE THEIR EARLIER WARNINGS TO DO SO.

9. ON ABOUT 23 NOVEMBER [REDACTED] AND THE OTHER FOUR MEN IN HIS COMPOUND WERE SENT WITH THEIR GUARDS TO HELP VILLAGERS GATHER RICE AND TO PROPAGANDIZE AMONG THE VILLAGERS AT NIGHT. ONE NIGHT, ABOUT 16 DAYS LATER, THE GUARDS WERE ALL SLEEPING AT THE SAME

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TIME AND THE FIVE PRISONERS ESCAPED. THE OTHERS WENT IN PAIRS AND [REDACTED] WAS ALONE. HE ARRIVED IN MUONG PHALANE (WD 6041) ON 12 DECEMBER, TWO DAYS AFTER THE ESCAPE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: WHEN [REDACTED] ARRIVED IN MUONG PHALANE HE WAS DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD TOLD VILLAGERS AT BAN A LOUEI (WD 7429) THAT HE WAS A PATHET LAO SOLDIER ON HIS WAY TO MUONG PHALANE.)

12. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] 9 JANUARY 1967

[REDACTED] AN INSTALLATION AT XD 063305 IN A CLEARING IN A HEAVILY FORESTED AREA ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE MOUEI TAYUNG. IT CONSISTED OF SEVEN BUILDINGS CONNECTED BY WELL-TRAVELLED FOOT PATHS AND A POSSIBLE SECURITY FENCE EXTENDING IN A SEMI-CIRCLE AROUND THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE INSTALLATION. NO MOTORABLE ROAD OR OTHER INSTALLATIONS COULD BE SEEN IN THE AREA, BUT AS NOTED ABOVE THE AREA IS HEAVILY FORESTED.

11. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV-SAIGON 7TH AIR FORCE-
(SAIGON AND HCON) CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]